



From the Occupational Health Surveillance Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

42-year-old Brazilian roofer died on the job when electrocuted

In October 2004, tragedy struck when two workers were electrocuted. One of these workers, a 42-year-old Brazilian male, was killed and the other worker, a 21-year-old Guatemalan male, was severely injured. A local roofing contractor employed both men as roofers. The men were unloading a 32-foot aluminum extension ladder from a pickup truck when the ladder struck an overhead electrical power line and electrocuted them.

Tips to keep yourself safe on the job:

- If you think some part of your job is not safe, talk to your co-workers. You can talk to your boss together.
- Ask your boss for safety training for any machine you use, even if you have used that kind of machine before.
- If you can not understand warning and safety signs at your job, ask your boss to post signs in your language.
- If you are in a union, talk to a union representative.

You have a right to ask for health and safety information and protection. It is illegal for your employer to fire you if you do so!

You have health and safety rights on the job!

All workers have health and safety rights in the workplace: citizens and non-citizens, documented and undocumented workers. Employers have to follow occupational health and safety regulations.

Your employer has to:

- Provide you with a safe workplace that is free of serious recognized hazards.
- Train you how to work safely around dangerous chemicals (that you work with or work near).
- Make sure you have and use safe and properly maintained tools and equipment.
- Make sure all employees are covered under "Workers' Compensation" insurance (Workers' Compensation is a state system that provides medical benefits and money for workers who get hurt on the job).

For more information

Collaboration for a Better Workplace Environment for Brazilians (COBWEB) Tel: (617) 783-8001 ext. 6
Tel: (978) 934-3147

Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (MassCOSH) helps workers with health and safety problems on the job Tel: 617-825-7233 ext. 10
www.masscosh.org

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) handles complaints of serious hazards Tel: 617-565-9860
www.osha.gov

Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA) administers Workers' Compensation
www.mass.gov/dia Tel: 617-727-4900 x470

ALWAYS: If you need an interpreter, ask for one as soon as you make the call!